— to act as an effective instrument of economic growth by giving a thrust to employment generation.

(b) As per statistics released by the Reserve Bank of India on 30th June, 2004 on India's overall Balance of Payments, the service sector earnings during the period 2003-04 (Provisional) is US $ 27,616 million which is approximately 24% of the total current account earnings.

(c) A growth target of 16% has been fixed for merchandise exports corresponding to a level of US $ 73.4 billion in 2004-05. However, no estimates for anticipated increase in the service sector exports are readily available.

Port for marine products

1767. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has suggested that an exclusive port be developed for export of marine products at Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that proper facilities are not available at Vishakhapatnam for export of shrimp, etc. by air cargo; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to assist the local marine product exporters in Andhra Pradesh to send their shrimp, etc. by air to nearby markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Vishakhapatnam airport is not an international airport. However, for export of live marine products, the Marine Products Export Development Authority has been extending financial assistance to the extent of 10% to 25% of air freight depending upon the destination.